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24 GET 100 PERCENTILE IN JEE-MAIN, RAJASTHAN HAS MOST TOPPERS

Twenty-four candidates scored a perfect 100 in JEE (Main), results of which were announced by the National Testing Agency on Saturday

T'GANA, U.P., MAHARASHTRA DO WELL TOO

Rajasthan, India's coaching hub, had the highest number of candidates with a perfect score with as many as seven scoring 100 percentile. Next in line, three toppers each are from Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, followed by two toppers each from Delhi, West Bengal and Gujarat. One topper each is from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, as per NTA

21 TOP CANDIDATES FROM GENERAL LIST

- While 21 top-scoring candidates are from general category, the list includes one candidate each from SC, ST and OBC categories
- The examination was held in April across nine shifts at 531 centres in 300 cities, including 15 outside India. Results of 110 candidates found using unfair means, including forged documents, were withheld

9,92,350

APPEARED IN THE SECOND EDITION OF JEE MAIN EXAM 2025

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

B'lurean gets 100 percentile in JEE Main

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KUSHAGRA Gupta from Bengaluru has emerged as JEE Main 2025 topper, scoring 100 percentile in Session-2 of the national-level engineering entrance exam. He is a student of Narayana Co-Kaveri Bhavan College in Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the results of JEE (Main) 2025, Paper 1 (BE/BTech) for Session-2 late on April 18. Kushagra is the only student from Karnataka to have secured the highest possible score in the exam, which is the gateway to premier technical institutions like IITs and NITs.

Earlier too, in session 1, paper 1, held in January, Kushagra had scored a 100 percentile. He is one of the 24 students from across the county to have secured a 100 percentile. Of the total 24 candidates, Rajasthan had the highest number of four students, Maharashtra three, Telangana and UP two each. NTA conducted the exam from April 2 to 8. Out of 10,61,840 registered candidates, 9,92,350 appeared for the exam.

Putin springs a short Easter truce surprise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AMID growing frustration in Washington over stalled peace efforts, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a surprise Easter truce in the conflict in Ukraine.

The truce will pause "all hostilities" from 6 pm Moscow time on Saturday (11 am Eastern Time) until midnight on Monday (5 pm ET Sunday).

The announcement came on the same day as Russia, Ukraine swapped hundreds of prisoners in the war's largest exchange. Russia said 246 Russian service members were returned from territory controlled by Kyiv, and that 'as a gesture of goodwill' 31 wounded Ukrainian prisoners of war were transferred in exchange for 15 wounded Russian soldiers.

Putin said he expects Ukraine to reciprocate: "We assume that the Ukrainian side will follow our example."

Our troops must be ready to repel violations of the truce and any provocations

—Vladimir Putin

Ukraine has been wary of short-term truces, having previously rejected a January 2023 ceasefire. Zelenskyy wrote on X that the truce plan came as air raid alerts were announced in Ukraine due to drone attacks.

The ceasefire announcement follows fresh Russian claims of territorial gains, including the capture of another settlement near the Kursk border region. President Putin suggested the truce would serve as a test of Ukraine's sincerity about wanting peace. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had signalled growing impatience with the peace process.

On Friday, he warned that the United States is prepared to "move on" from its role in brokering peace talks unless there are tangible signs of progress in the coming days. "We can't keep chasing a breakthrough that isn't coming," he said.

First in-person trade talks with the US from April 23

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

AIMING to quickly wrap up the first phase of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US before the September-October deadline, India is sending a small delegation of five-six negotiators to the US on April 23. The delegation is likely to stay there for three days, commerce ministry sources told this newspaper.

TARIFF TRACKER

US vice-president J D Vance is due to arrive in India on Monday, April 21. The Indian delegation's visit a couple of days later indicates the mutual urge to expedite the talks.

Earlier, the ministry had indicated that physical negotiations will begin only in the first week of May. "While virtual negotiations have started, we thought we will send a small delegation to the US to carry forward the discussions," a commerce ministry official told this newspaper.

India's chief negotiator — additional secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal — will lead the team for the first in-person talks. He was appointed the next commerce secretary on April 18. He will assume office on October 1.

Though some reports suggest both sides have agreed to have the discussions covering 19 chapters, including tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and customs facilitation, the ministry official quoted earlier denied chapter-wise discussions would be held during the visit of the delegation. He said chapter-wise discussion would begin in the second half of May. "The texts and contours of those discussions are being prepared currently," the official said.

"The September-October timeline is a deadline, not a target. If negotiations can be concluded earlier, it will benefit both," said a commerce ministry official.

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India condemns Hindu leader's murder in B'desh

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a sharp escalation of tensions over attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, India on Saturday condemned the brutal killing of community leader Bhabesh Chandra Roy as part of a "systematic persecution" and firmly urged Dhaka to protect its minorities without offering excuses or justifications.

Bhabesh Chandra Roy, 58, a prominent Hindu leader and vice-president of the Biral unit of the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, was murdered in Dinajpur, Bangladesh. Local media reports said Roy was abducted from home by four men on motorcycles half-an-hour after he received a suspicious call around 4.30 pm. They took him to Narabari village, where he was savagely assaulted.

Bhabesh C Roy

The attackers later dumped the unconscious Roy at his home in a van. He was taken to hospital, where he was declared dead. "We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government, even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity."

Muthappa Rai's son injured after man opens fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RICKY Rai, son of former underworld don-turned-social activist late Muthappa Rai, survived a murder attempt in the early hours of Saturday after an unidentified assailant opened fire at his SUV outside his sprawling bungalow in Bidadi in Ramanagara district, near here.

The police have booked four persons, including Muthappa Rai's second wife Anuradha.

The shooting occurred around 12.50 am. Ricky, his driver Basavaraju and gunman Rajpal were heading to Bengaluru in a black SUV.

When the vehicle came out of the compound, the miscreant who was hiding behind the compound wall of another private property allegedly opened fire at the front door. Both Ricky and Basavaraju sustained injuries.

CONTINUED ON P5

Ricky Rai

EXPRESS READ

Protests across state against janivara row

Bengaluru: A storm of protest has engulfed Karnataka following reports that students were allegedly forced to remove their Janivara before entering CET examination halls in Bidar and Shivamogga, triggering a fierce backlash from religious groups, political leaders, and civil society alike. P6

No CET for students with IIT, NEET seats

BENGALURU: The KEA announced that students under Karnataka domicile who have 'secured' seats in colleges across India through NEET or 'gained admissions' into premier tech institutes like IITs via JEE, will no longer be allowed to participate in the state's CET counselling. P4

Bengal governor meets riot victims

KOLKATA: Amidst patrolling by central and police forces in riot-hit parts of Murshidabad district, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women teams on Saturday visited the affected areas and interacted with the victims, assuring them of all help. P10

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